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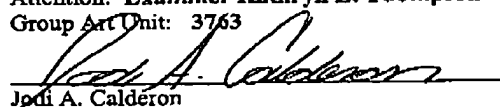
OFFICIAL

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Attention: Examiner Kathryn L. Thompson
Group Art Unit: 3763

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Jodi A. Calderon

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.: 10/634,715

Examiner: Kathryn L. Thompson

Filing Date: August 5, 2003

Group Art Unit: 3763

Inventor: Adel B. Korkor et al.

Attorney Docket No. 155.015

For: *Catheter Introducer Having an Expandable Tip*

Priority: Continuation-In-Part of U.S. Pat. App. 09/896,035, filed June 29, 2001

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please enter the following preliminary amendment prior to examination of the above application.

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 12 of this paper.